

THE 1947 U.S. POSTAGE STAMP CENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE



Plate Block of 6 signed by the designer Leon Helguera on May 17, 1947 — the stamp's day of issue and the first day of CIPEX.

EXHIBIT PLAN

1. PRODUCTION & ISSUANCE
2. FIRST CACHETS
3. FIRST DAY USE
4. FIRST DAY USE TO FOREIGN DESTINATIONS
5. UNOFFICIAL CITIES
6. USAGE

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first federally issued United States postage stamps, an international philatelic exhibition was held in New York City during May 1947. The show, nicknamed CIPEX, was the largest stamp show ever held and the Post Office Department was one of the largest supporters. Three postal items were released by the P.O.D. during the 9-day long show — including a 3¢ stamp on the opening day. The stamp depicted an early mode of postal transportation, an express rider, modern transportation methods, as well as the portraits of Washington and Franklin used on the first stamps of 1847.

Over 30,000 collectors attended the show's opening day — over three million Centenary Commemorative stamps were sold and 712,000 first day covers were processed. As could be expected, numerous cachet varieties were produced for the issue by a vast number of cachetmakers.

Cachet variations shown in the exhibit are limited to those with design differences only. Due to space limitations, cachets printed in more than one color are shown only once and the printed colors are described in the text.

Items of note are
matted in gold



HIGHLIGHTS

- DESIGN SKETCH AND PHOTOGRAPHIC MODELS OF PRELIMINARY ARTWORK AND PROGRESSIVE DESIGNS
- PRINTING PLATES FOR ALL FOUR ARTCRAFT CACHET VARIETIES
- ONLY LARGE DIE PROOF IN PRIVATE HANDS
- UNIQUE DOROTHY KNAPP, HERMAN MAUL & WALTER STAWUSZEWSKI HAND-PAINTED CACHETS
- FIRST DAY USES TO FRENCH INDO-CHINA, THE CANAL ZONE AND MALTA.
- LARGEST-DOCUMENTED MULTIPLE FIRST DAY USE
- DISCOVERY COPY OF RALPH DUNCAN FIRST CACHET